

and in view of the fatal facility with which all ranks of society provide themselves with fire-arms in America, it would seem that the peaceable, law-abiding citizen has but to wait defenceless for the crank's appointed hour. Shot down by a man whom he never saw and whom he therefore saw no reason to avoid, it is little consolation to the friends of the victim to be told that lunatics who commit homicide, while knowing the difference between right and wrong, are now hanged in order that society may be protected after the deed; what the community needs is arrest before the shooting."

A recent striking commentary on the statements of Dr. Godding is furnished by the acquittal of Rowell. Rowell, who appears to have been an epileptic, subject to post-epileptic conditions of depression, killed his wife's paramour under circumstances which seem to indicate mental weakness. Several physicians testified to his insanity, but the jury, sympathizing with the defendant on the score of his domestic misfortunes, acquitted him on the ground of self-defence. Now, had this man killed any one of his neighbors for no motive at all, in a brutal manner, the same jury would have hung him. Now this man, if insane from the cause ascribed, was a dangerous lunatic who should have been immediately sent to an hospital for the insane for life. An expert owes a duty to the people as well as to science and humanity, and however unpopular such a course in cases like that of Rowell, he should recommend on the witness-stand that such lunatics should be placed in an asylum for life. However, the experts in the Rowell case were not to blame,—the jury paid no attention to their evidence.

J. G. KIERNAN, M.D.

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#### *e.*—THERAPEUTICS OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

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THE GYNECOLOGICAL TREATMENT OF HYSTERIA.—Flechsigs reported, at the annual meeting of the German Society of Physicians for Mental Diseases, two cases of hysteria in which the symptoms eventually disappeared after the removal of the ovaries and left broad ligament in one case, and the uterus with all its appendages in the other.

The first case had suffered for four years, in spite of all treatment, from a cycle of hysterical symptoms, including motor, sensory, and psychical, such as depression, suicidal desires, delirium with hallucinations, convulsions, etc., etc. Examination revealed an old parametritis with displaced uterus. Finally double ovariectomy was performed. The left ovary was found to contain numerous small cysts. It was noticed that at the moment when the ovary was removed the patient, though deeply chloroformed, had a peculiar attack, consisting of restlessness, deep sighing inspiration, and weakness of the heart, pointing, as the author thinks, toward a connection between the disease of

the sexual organs and the nervous disease. After the operation the condition of the patient, physically and mentally, was improved; but at the end of two weeks a cystitis developed, and with it an increase of all the symptoms. For twenty-one weeks the mental condition grew steadily worse, and then, *all of a sudden*, the patient began to improve, and she felt "as if she had been new born." There has been no return of the symptoms.

The second case suffered from hysterical convulsions, mental disturbances, etc., including suicidal tendency. Examination revealed a uterine fibroma. Later a maniacal condition developed.

The uterus and appendages were removed, Sept., 1883. Immediately after the operation there was improvement in the psychical condition, but the mania soon came on again, and increased for seven to eight weeks, when improvement rapidly set in, and patient was discharged well. There had been no return of the symptoms.

The writer summed up his conclusions as follows:

1. It is not true that ovariectomy in hysterical neuroses is useless.

2. Bad results do not always follow.

3. Ovariectomy is indicated in cases where there is evidence of the reflex character of the neurosis.

In the discussion which followed Mendel, Hitzig, Merchede, and Gudden took part, and expressed opinions in opposition to the operation.—*Centralbl. für Nervenheilkunde*, 1884, No. 19; *Neurolog. Centralbl.*, 1884, Nos. 19 and 20.

[There does not seem, however, to have been much experience with the operation in Germany, for of the ten cases collected by Flechsig only two were done in that country. Of these ten the result was favorable in four; no result in three; while three were made worse. This certainly does not include all the cases that have been operated upon for psychical disease.]

NITRO-GLYCERINE IN EPILEPTIFORM TIC.—Dr. James P. Bramwell publishes a remarkable cure effected by this drug. The patient was a man, eighty years of age, who had suffered for five months from most severe paroxysms which steadily grew worse. The attacks came on sometimes as often as twelve times in the twenty-four hours; during the night they were oftener and more violent. The patient could not wash his face without bringing on a paroxysm, and a touch of the finger, a puff of cold air, or even a mental emotion produced the same effect. After trying bromide of potash and croton chloral, Dr. B. gave drop doses of a one % solution of nitro-glycerine. The effect was almost immediate, and in four days all the symptoms were gone. There had been no return at the end of four months.—*Br. Med. Jour.*, Sept 27, 1884.

THE PHYSIOLOGICAL AND THERAPEUTIC VALUE OF STATIC ELECTRICITY.—Dr. M. V. Bundikoff describes in *Vratch*, 1883,

his observations on the physiological action and therapeutic value of franklinization in nervous disease. The therapeutic results have been thus summarized in the *London Med. Rec.* :

1. *Neuralgia* ; sixty-seven cases, sixty-one of which were of rheumatic origin, four of traumatic, and two of reflex (twenty-eight cases of sciatica, nineteen of trigeminal neuralgia, and eleven of intercostal, etc.). In the rheumatic cases, the results were very striking. Even very obstinate cases were very often cured after one or two sittings of five to ten minutes' duration; in others a great relief in both the number and intensity of the paroxysms was obtained. In some of the patients the disease returned after a while, but was less pronounced, speedily yielded to franklinization. The results were less successful in traumatic and reflex cases, where pain returned, disappeared only for fifteen or twenty minutes after a sitting, to return soon in its former degree.

2. *Rheumatism*, twenty-four cases. In chronic and subacute forms of muscular as well as articular rheumatism, static electricity acted as effectively and rapidly as in neuralgia; hence it is preferable here to galvanization and faradisation. Franklinization was useful also in acute forms; but the author is as yet unprepared to say whether it stands here superior to galvanic and faradic treatment or not.

3. *Peripheral Palsies*, ten cases (eight of rheumatic origin and two of traumatic). In rheumatic cases, a great improvement—amounting almost to a complete recovery—followed after two or three sittings. Sometimes, however, relapses occurred. In traumatic paralysis faradisation gave better results than franklinization.

4. *Chorea Minor*, one case. Temporary slight improvement.

5. *Cephalalgia*, two cases. Some improvement.

6. *Neurasthenia*, one case. Some improvement.

7. *Spinal Irritation*, two cases. Both "almost recovered."

8. *Paralysis Agitans*. Slight diminution of shaking.

9. *Impotentia Virilis*, two cases. No improvement in one; recovery in the other after four sittings.

10. *Nervous Itch*, one case. Cured after one sitting. No return.

The author concludes: "Franklinization may prove of great use, mainly in peripheral nervous affections; in the majority of, if not in all, rheumatic cases it has a greater success than the application of faradic and galvanic currents."—*Lond. Med. Rec.*, Oct. 15, 1884.

J. Stepanow has later studied the effect of static electricity (*Wratsch*, 1884, No. 27) after sittings of 5–12 minutes' duration. The following results were observed:

1. The perspiration from the franklinized portions of skin was diminished in most cases, while it was increased over the portion not franklinized. In sensitive subjects, especially when the electricity was given to the back, drops of sweat appeared on the forehead, neck, palms of the hand, and in the axillæ.

2. The quantity of urine passed in the twenty-four hours was increased, markedly so by general franklinization.

3. The pulse was not only quantitatively but qualitatively altered, so that the ascending curve became higher and more inclined, the apex more pointed, and the dichrotism more marked.

4. Franklinization not only relieves pain and invigorates the system, but also has a healing effect. In one case of chronically enlarged and hardened submaxillary and parotid glands, the former became reduced in size after sittings of twenty-five minutes' duration; after six sittings they became softer.

5. In incurable anatomical lesions (tabes) the symptoms diminish and often disappear after a while. In hysteria and renal neurasthenia franklinization also has good effect.—*Centrbl. f. nerven. Psych.*, etc., 1884, No. 16.

ACUTE MANIA TREATED WITH HYOSCYAMIN.—Dr. C. T. Ewart gives his conclusions from the use of the drug in twelve cases, six of which he reports. Nothing new is given, but his results are still of interest. The conclusion he draws "from the result of the treatment of these cases is that hyoscyamin is undoubtedly of great service in certain cases of mania where the patient is violent and cannot be restrained. It is certain in its action, quieting the patient within a quarter of an hour after administration through its effect on the nervous system. The sleep produced is very deep, and the muscular power weakened by its direct paralyzing action on the spinal cord."—*Lancet*, Aug. 16, 1884.

SALICYLATE OF SODA IN HEMICRANIA.—Finkenstein recommends (*Wratsch*, 1884, No. 29. Russian), as a result of a trial in fourteen cases, this drug, in hemicrania when the disease is of a sympatico-spasmodic and not paralytic character. He gives thirty grains and repeats the dose in a half hour. In many cases the pain disappears in 5-10 minutes after the second dose.—*Neurolog. Centralbl.*, 1884, No. 17.

TETANUS AND CHOREA CURED BY ETHER SPRAY.—Dr. G. Boutellier reports two cases (one of traumatic tetanus and one of chorea) in which he thinks recovery was effected by the use of the ether spray along the spine.

In the case of tetanus, calabar bean was also given; the spray was applied every hour for five minutes along the whole length of the spine. B. attributes recovery to the ether spray, and not to calabar bean, which he seems to have had sufficient faith in to prescribe, but not to trust.

The case of chorea was that of a child eleven years old. The symptoms were marked. At first large doses were given of opium, arsenic, calabar bean, and bromide of potash without benefit. "At the end of five weeks of treatment the poor boy was unable to walk

without falling, could not carry food or drink to his mouth, and presented, in a word, all the symptoms of complete chorea. It was then that the treatment of Subieski was thought of. The ether spray was applied along the spine morning and evening for three, later five, minutes at a time. This treatment, which was badly borne by the little patient, produced a change for the better on the second day; and at the end of five days there remained only some choreiform movements, which occurred principally when the patient was observed." At the end of five days more, cure was complete. B. concludes that this treatment was not only effective, but the improvement from it was almost instantaneous.—*Le Progrès médical*, Oct. 7. 1884.

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THE WEIR-MITCHELL TREATMENT OF NEURASTHENIA.—Dr. P. A. Young reports two cases which are of interest, not because presenting any thing new, but because of the thoroughness with which the treatment was carried out and the beneficial results which therefore resulted.

The first case was an unmarried woman, thirty-four years old, who had been an invalid for fourteen years, being unable to leave her bed or couch, and generally regarded as a hopeless case. When seen she was found "reclining helplessly upon a sofa in a darkened room, speaking in the lowest whisper, eyes frequently shut to exclude the small amount of light there was, the slightest noise evidently causing great annoyance and fatigue, even to the point of swooning after being spoken to for two or three minutes," and unable to walk, body emaciated, appetite poor, etc. The Weir-Mitchell treatment was employed, being thoroughly carried out in every particular, and not in only one direction, as is often the case. "At the end of six weeks the patient was able to go to the country, and could now walk out a little. She was gradually able to go into society and attend church. The change was so great, after fourteen years of bed and couch, to be able to enjoy life, see her friends in comfort, and walk out, that the quondam invalid could scarcely believe she was the same person."

The second case was a young woman twenty-eight years old, who had been ill eight years. The principal symptom was vomiting after every meal. This had told on her health so that she had become weak, thin, etc. There was choreiform twitching.

The treatment was equally successful, the patient becoming as robust and active as she was before her illness."—*Edin. Clin. and Path. Four.*, Aug. 30, 1884.

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THE COMBINED USE OF THE DIFFERENT SALTS OF BROMINE IN NERVOUS DISEASES AND ESPECIALLY EPILEPSY.—Erlenmeyer advocates the combination of the bromides of potash, soda, and ammonia, instead of one singly. The results of his experience he states as follows:

1. He has never seen the epileptic attacks so controlled by one

salt alone that they have not returned after the cessation of the treatment.

2. Each of the salts is capable of producing bromide acne, which, however, will disappear on the use of an equal dose of a different salt.

3. The combination of the potash, soda, and ammonia salts in the proportion of 1: 1:  $\frac{1}{2}$  works better than any one even in larger doses.

4. The attacks do not return after giving up the use of the combined salts.

5. The acne produced by one salt disappears when the combined salts are given. He has never seen acne produced by the combined salts. To prevent impairment of digestion, he recommends the bromides to be given *after* meals in some alkaline effervescing water (seltzer, vichy, etc.)—*Centralbl. f. Nervenheil. Psych.*, etc., Sept., 1884, No. 18.

THE TREATMENT OF CHOREA.—Dr. J. Van Bibber strongly advocates seclusion, rest in bed, and massage in the treatment of chorea.—*Amer. Jour. of Neur. and Psychiat.*, May, 1884.

PARALDEHYDE AND ACETAL IN MENTAL DISORDERS.—Langreuter publishes (*Archiv. f. Psychiat. und nervenkrank.*, vol. xv., p. 7) the results of his observations, which agree with those of most previous observers. He concludes as follows:

“The action of paraldehyde in producing sleep is on the whole satisfactory. When sleep does not follow the dose (which takes place oftener than is the case with chloral) a restful state is induced. Total failure is rarely met with.

Paraldehyde is best suited for such mental conditions as are accompanied with more or less loss of consciousness, such as epileptic conditions and certain stages of general paralysis.

The medium active dose is 5–6 grains; sleep coming usually in five to ten minutes.

The action appears to be chiefly on the cerebrum. No bad effect was noticed on the respiration, heart, or other organs, even after long-continued use of the remedy. Paraldehyde possesses an advantage over chloral in this respect and also in its more rapid action. Its use even in cases of valvular disease of the heart is permissible.

The disadvantages compared with chloral consist in the large quantity which has to be given, its unpleasant taste, and its comparatively high price. Langreuter recommends the use of paraldehyde in all cases where chloral is contra-indicated, or where an hypnotic action is required to be produced rapidly.

Acetal acts very much as paraldehyde does, but is not to be recommended on account of unpleasant symptoms it is apt to induce.—*Edin. Clin. and Path. Jour.*, July 12, 1884.

NAPELLINE IN FACIAL NEURALGIA.—Grognot reports a case in which he thinks good results were obtained with this drug. It was a girl, twenty-two years old, who had suffered from attacks of facial neuralgia about every month for three years, unconnected with menstruation. On the 20th of January, 1882, a violent attack came on. 0.025 gr. of napelline was given during the day, with the effect of diminishing the pain. The napelline was continued during the next two days, but the quantity reduced to 0.01 gr. The patient continued well for two months, when the neuralgia having returned, the same treatment was employed, and again followed by disappearance of pain in twenty-four hours.—*Rev. des. Sciences médicales*, July 15, 1884.

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CAUTERIZATION OF THE CLITORIS IN HYSTERIA.—Dr. V. Hinze reports a case of what appears to have been hystero-epilepsy of a severe type, which had resisted the usual anti-hysterical remedies. From July 14th to August 12th the patient had fifteen convulsive attacks. The clitoris was freely cauterized with nitrate of silver on August 13th. From this time to September 7th, the date of the last attack, nine occurred. On September 22d she was discharged apparently well. Three cauterizations were employed in all. It is not known whether the cure was permanent. Dr. H. thinks the method deserves further trial.—*St. Petersburg. Med. Wochensch.*, 1883, No. 42.

[It may be doubted whether the improvement was due to the treatment, as this same patient was previously in the Alexander Hospital for six months with the same disease, and discharged cured ; but some weeks later, July 13th, the attacks returned.]

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A CASE OF SEVERE NEURALGIA CURED BY INJECTIONS OF OSMIC ACID.—The case is reported by G. J. Turner. It was a severe ulnar neuralgia (neuritis?) of five and a half years' duration, the result of an injury to the elbow-joint, and had resisted all other treatment. The nerve was swollen, felt like a cord, and sensitive to pressure, which caused clinic spasms of the two last fingers. Two or three drops of a one-per-cent. solution of osmic acid, freshly prepared, were injected in the neighborhood of the nerve at the elbow—at first every day, then every other day, later less often. After twelve injections the pain was limited to the ulnar side of the little finger. Thirteen injections were then given in the back of the hand between the two last metacarpal bones. Finally, after an injection into the little finger, where a sensitive and thickened nerve could be felt, the pain disappeared for good.—*Centralbl. für Nervenhe., Psychiat.*, etc., 1884, No. 18.